



## Lipoprotein (a) Levels in Diabetic Retinopathy

V.M.Vinodhini\*<sup>1</sup>, S.Gnaneswaran <sup>2</sup>, J.S.Kumar <sup>3</sup>, W.Ebenezer William <sup>1</sup>,  
A.Jeevanathan <sup>1</sup>

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1.Department of Biochemistry, 2.Department of Ophthalmology, 3.Department of Internal Medicine, SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre, SRM University, Kattankulathur, Tamilnadu, India

Address: Department of Biochemistry, SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre, SRM University, Kattankulathur, Tamilnadu, India

E-mail: [vinodhini239@gmail.com](mailto:vinodhini239@gmail.com)

Tele Phone:

\*Corresponding author

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### ABSTRACT

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**Diabetic Retinopathy is one of the earliest micro vascular complications of diabetes mellitus. Hyperglycemia and duration of diabetes are recognized risk factors for the development of retinopathy. This study was undertaken to know if elevated levels of Lipoprotein (a) [Lp (a)] were present in diabetic subjects who have developed diabetic retinopathy. This Cross-sectional study involved 40 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. A detailed examination of the fundus along with laboratory measurements of fasting glucose, lipid profile and Lp(a) was carried out. The average Lp (a) levels in the study group (44.76 mg/dl) was significantly higher than in the control group (17.64 mg/dl;  $p < 0.01$ ). Lp(a) and Low Density Lipoprotein-Cholesterol (LDL-C) were positively correlated ( $r = 0.354$ ) whereas Lp(a) and High Density Lipoprotein-Cholesterol (HDL-C) showed a negative correlation ( $r = - 0.147$ ) in the diabetic retinopathy group. This finding suggests that increased Lp(a) levels may contribute to the pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy.**

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